

From: Dave Hargett [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 11/30/2020 5:32:11 PM
To: Cole, Robert [colerb@dhec.sc.gov]; Porter, Henry [porterhj@dhec.sc.gov]
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Subject: Lake Conestee Site Investigation - SCDHEC Status

Thank you, Robert, for getting back to me.

We shall appreciate the opportunity to see the data as soon as it is available.

As I shared with Henry in an earlier conversation, I strongly encourage your team to give me the opportunity to assist (*on behalf of CF*) in the process of your data review and analysis, for the following reasons:

- 1) CF, as the Site owner, and a NRP, is eager to assist in any way, to see this process through, and to stay completely and timely informed on the likely pathway forward.
 - 2) We likely have additional data that we have collected over the years through ancillary investigations that will be relevant to your analysis of both Site conditions, and potential upstream sources. It is likely that the Department may not have some of this data.
 - 3) The work and analysis conducted through the TBA and related studies from 2000-2008 is important to the overall analysis of the Site conditions and potential hazard. We surmise that your samples were predominantly "recent" and "surficial" sediments shallower than about 2 ft. Much of the lake has accreted significant depths of sediment over the past 17 years, since that earlier sampling, and some formerly submerged sediment areas are now terrestrial. Natural capping and minimizing disturbance of sediment are integral to the terms of our Restrictive Covenant defining Site management requirements, as signed with the Department in 2007.
 - 4) The deep sediments of the former reservoir are at risk of being mobilized in the case of a dam failure, and our early TBA work confirmed highly elevated concentrations at depth (in the bottom of the bathtub) for the deeper locations sampled 2001-2004.
 - 5) The facts that there had been numerous releases from the dam historically, due to periodic sediment sluicing through the sluice gates, as was customary with these old dams (*in this case prior to 1970*), as well with the failure of the penstock orifice from June 2000-June 2001 (*CF repaired this once we acquired the site, with SCDHEC and NRCS assistance*), and the confirmation of significantly elevated concentrations of CoCs in downstream sediments, all underscore the potential future, and past impacts from these release scenarios.
 - 6) The agencies (EPA and SCDHEC) process, findings, and actions are very highly relevant to our ongoing management of the Site and the Dam, and our strategies for dealing with PRPs, other agencies, and our public patrons who use Lake Conestee Nature Preserve (*well over 100,000 patron visits per year*). On this last issue, regardless of any forthcoming recommendation, CF, having a very significant social media presence with our patrons, and also with a large and engaged stakeholder community, is uniquely positioned to assist SCDHEC in communicating the status of the Site and any changes in public advisories related to the Site.
- Last, I will be stepping down as Executive Director of the Foundation on 31 Dec after over 10 years, and over 20 years since creating it. Michael Corley (*presently with SCERP*) will be

assuming that role 01 Jan 2021. I will continue to be engaged on these issues as a consultant to the Foundation on regulatory issues over the next year, as Michael comes up to speed.

Please contact me with any questions.

We'll look forward to seeing the data soon.

Very best regards,

Dave

Dave Hargett, Ph.D.

Founder & Executive Director

Conestee Foundation / Lake Conestee Nature Preserve

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dave@conesteepreserve.org

Conestee Foundation: a 501(c)(3) Conservation Organization - Established 2000

Owner & Steward of Lake Conestee Nature Preserve

LCNP: Celebrating 14 Years of Discovery !

An Important Bird Area of Global Significance

Upstate Partner with Audubon - South Carolina

Lake Conestee: A National Register of Historic Places Site

<http://conesteepreserve.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/LakeConestee>

On Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 10:37 AM Cole, Robert <colerb@dhec.sc.gov> wrote:

Dave,

We received the rest of the data for the upstream sampling last Wednesday. Jason will be reviewing the data. He will be happy to share what we have. Please give us a few days to collate and make sure we have it all. The draft for our report is due in late January. EPA will have up to 60 days to review and comment. Once it is final (late February to early April) you will receive a copy.

Let me know if you have any additional questions.

Robert

Robert Cole, Manager

Federal & State Site Assessment Section

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